

Message Text

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PAGE 01 JERUSA 02039 280144Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SAA-01 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00
ICAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02 INR-10 L-03
NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-05 IO-14 HA-05
/075 W

-----112027 280158Z /61

O 272238Z JUL 78
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1397
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS JERUSALEM 2039

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (ATHERTON, ALFRED L., JR.)
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S REMARKS AFTER MEETING PRIME MINISTER
BEGIN

U.S. DEL NO. 17

1. FOLLOWING ARE AMBASSADOR ATHERTON'S AND FOREIGN MINISTER
DAYAN'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE ONE HOUR FORTY-
FIVE MINUTE MEETING WITH PM BEGIN AND FM DAYAN AT PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN'S OFFICE, JERUSALEM, JULY 27, 7:30 P.M. (LOCAL
TIME.)

2. BEGIN TEXT.
ATHERTON: GOOD EVENING.
QUESTION: HOW WERE YOUR TALKS?
A: WE HAD A VERY GOOD TALK, AND A VERY SERIOUS TALK, AND
I THINK ALSO, I COULD SAY THAT THEY WERE VERY DETAILED. I
SAID YESTERDAY WHEN I ARRIVED IN ISRAEL THAT MY PURPOSE WAS
TO DISCUSS AND COMPARE IMPRESSIONS AND ASSESSMENTS OF
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WHAT RESULTED FROM THE LEEDS TALKS, AND TO SEE WHAT THIS
CAN PERHAPS PROVIDE AS A BASIS FOR THE ONGOING NEGOTIATIONS,
AND THIS PURPOSE WAS ACCOMPLISHED IN TODAY'S MEETING. I
DID JUST THAT. I THINK THEY WERE VERY USEFUL TALKS, AND VERY
HELPFUL TO ME, AND I'M SURE THEY WILL BE VERY HELPFUL TO
MY GOVERNMENT AS WE LOOK FORWARD TO THE NEXT ROUND OF THE
NEGOTIATIONS.

Q: FOLLOWING THE EGYPTIAN EXPULSION OF THE ISRAELI MILITARY DELEGATION, ARE YOU STILL OPTIMISTIC?

A: I THINK AS FAR AS THAT PARTICULAR ACTION IS CONCERNED, I WOULD DEFER TO MY GOVERNMENT TO MAKE ANY COMMENT ON THAT. THAT IS SOMETHING I THINK THAT WILL HAVE TO COME OUT OF WASHINGTON. AS FAR AS I AM CONCERNED, I FEEL THAT THE TALKS IN LEEDS WERE USEFUL, THAT THERE WILL BE GREAT UTILITY IN HAVING FURTHER TALKS, AND THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE PROGRESS IN THESE TALKS IS STILL THERE, YES.

Q: ARE YOU BEARING ANY NEW ISRAELI IDEAS TO EGYPT TOMORROW?

A: NO, THESE WERE TALKS MORE OR LESS TO SIMPLY ASSESS WHERE WE WERE FROM THE LAST ROUND AND TO BEGIN TO GET OUT THINKING IN ORDER FOR THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS. I WOULD ASSUME THAT ANY NEW IDEAS THAT MAY BE INJECTED IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WILL BE INJECTED WHEN THERE IS THE NEXT ROUND OF TALKS.

Q: WHEN WILL THAT BE, MR. ATHERTON, AND WHAT IS THE CONTINUATION?

A: WELL, AS YOU KNOW, WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT A FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS WHEN SECRETARY VANCE COMES TO THE AREA.

Q: IS THERE A DECISION ABOUT HOLDING TALKS IN SINIA?

A: THERE HAVE BEEN NO FINAL DECISIONS, BUT WE ARE PROCEEDING, OUR GOVERNMENT IS PROCEEDING, ON THE EXPECTATION, AS MR. VANCE HAS SAID, THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO HAVE A FURTHER ROUND OF TALKS.

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Q: DO YOU EXPECT IT WILL BE SET WHILE YOU'RE IN EGYPT/ THE SCHEDULE?

A: I'LL HAVE TO WAIT AND SEE.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY DOUBT THAT THE FOREIGN MINISTERS' TALKS WILL BE RESUMED?

A: THEY HAVE NOT YET BEEN FINALLY AGREED. THEREFORE, I CANNOT SAY THAT ABSOLUTELY THEY WILL BE RESUMED. I'VE SIMPLY SAID, AS MR. VANCE HAS SAID, THAT IT IS OUR EXPECTATION THAT IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO ARRANGE THESE TALKS, BUT THEY CERTAINLY HAVE NOT YET BEEN AGREED AND CONFIRMED.

Q: DID YOU TRANSFER ANY MESSAGES FROM KING HUSSEIN OR FROM SAUDI LEADERS TO ISRAEL?

A; NO, I DID NOT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH*

*. MOSHE DAYAN'S COMMENTS

DAYAN; I WANT JUST TO THANK SECRETARY ATHERTON FOR HIS COMING OVER HERE AND FOR WHAT HE TOLD US ABOUT HIS IMPRESSIONS OF THE THINKING IN SAUDI ARABIA AND IN JORDAN. AND OF COURSE WE DISCUSSED AMONG OURSELVES, OUR APPROACH TO THE CONTINUATION OF THE TALKS WITH THE EGYPTIANS ON WHICH OUR POSITION IS KNOWN, IS POSITIVE, AND IF THE

EGYPTIANS WILL AGREE TO GO ON WITH IT, WE ARE WILLING
AND READY TO DO THAT.

Q: MR DAYAN, DID YOUR IMPRESSIONS OF THE LEEDS CASTLE
TALKS DIFFER IN ANY WAY FROM MR. ATHERTON'S IMPRESSIONS?

A: I WAS VERY PLEASED TO HEAR HE THINKS THAT WHAT I SAID
IN THE KNESSET WAS VERY ACCURATE. AM I RIGHT ABOUT THAT
(TO ATHERTON)? (ATHERTON NODS HIS HEAD IN AGREEMENT).

DAYAN REPEATS HIS REMARKS IN HEBREW.

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